(c) The actual financial powers of the District Panchayats are determined through such regulations and executive roles issued thereunder. In respect of NREGA, as stated vide (b) above, at least fifty percent is mandatorily required to be allocated to the panchayat at the village level, and NREGA provides for district panchayats to approve the district shelf of projects.

Delegation of powers to Panchayats

2250. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that the State Government of Tripura has delegated authoritative powers to three-tier Panchayats in respect of different departments including school education;

(b) whether there are occasions like this in other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is going to adopt regulations to encourage the shifting of supervisory powers to Panchayats for involving people's participation in Government work; and

(e) if so, the details of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Article 243G of the Constitution provides that the legislature of a State may by law endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats for the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and the implementation of related schemes as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule that contains a list of 29 matters. All 24 States to which the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution applies have enacted Panchayati Raj legislation, which *inter-alia*, provides for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the District, Intermediate and Villages levels. This formal devolution through State legislations needs to be translated into the actual transfer of activities relating to such devolved functions to Panchayats at different levels through executive orders, instructions and administrative arrangements. It has been the endeavour of the Central Government to persuade the States to match the transfer of functions with the corresponding transfer of funds and functionaries, so that Panchayats can perform their roles as institutions of self-government in the spirit of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

The Government of Tripura have reported that they had issued orders in August 2007 for transferring some functions to Panchayats that pertain to different departments including primary schools, adult and non formal education, women and child development and social welfare including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded with provisions for transfer of functionaries. Devolution of powers to Panchayats has been made by all States in varying degrees. Details of legislative devolution and functional transfer through activity mapping, executive orders and instructions, according to available records is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The powers to be given to Panchayats are provided in the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts and executive orders issued to enforce these Acts. As regards the role of the Panchayats in the administration of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs), the Cabinet Secretariat had issued a directive in 2004 whereby all the Central Ministries were required to review their respective CSSs for ensuring central roles to Panchayats in planning and implementation of these schemes. In furtherance of this objective, the Cabinet Secretariat has also constituted a Committee to review the need for modifications in the current Guidelines for each major CSS. The Committee had held extensive consultations with the representatives of Central Ministries and Departments, administering the major CSS and recommended several measures for ensuring central role to Panchayats in planning and implementation of these schemes.

Statement

Details regarding devolution of functions

Sl. No.	State	Transfer of Subjects through Legislation	Subjects covered under Activity Mapping, executive orders, notifications, etc.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	9
2.	Assam	29	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	29	3
4.	Bihar	25	25
5.	Chhattisgarh	29	27
6.	Goa	21	18
7.	Gujarat	15	14
8.	Haryana	Zila Panchayat-Only advisory, supervision and coordination powers Intermediate Panchayat-27 Gram Panchayat-25	28
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29	26
10.	Jharkhand	**Panchayat elections not held**	
11.	Karnataka	Zila Panchayat-26 Intermediate Panchayat-27 Gram Panchayat-25	29
12.	Kerala	26	26
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Zila Panchayat-7 Intermediate Panchayat-17 Gram Panchayat-8	25
14.	Maharashtra	18	18
15.	Manipur	22	22
16.	Orissa	Zila Panchayat-16 Intermediate Panchayat-5 Gram Panchayat-21	18

1	2	3	4
17.	Punjab	7	6
18.	Rajasthan	Zila Panchayat-22 Intermediate Panchayat-25 Gram Panchayat-26	28
19.	Sikkim	Zila Panchayat-15 Gram Panchayat-18	18
20.	Tamil Nadu	29	
21.	Tripura	29	21
22.	Uttar Pradesh	12	
23.	Uttarakhand	14	9
24.	West Bengal	Zila Panchayat-18 Intermediate Panchayat-29 Gram Panchayat-28	28

Applications received under RTI

†2251. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received so far under RTI Act after this law came into force;

(b) the number of applicants who have been provided informations within prescribed time, State-wise; and

(c) the number of applications pending alongwith the reasons for delay in providing information, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) As per information furnished by the Central Information Commission, 207860 applications were received under the Right to Information Act by various public authorities under the jurisdiction of the Central Government during the period from October, 2005 to March, 2007.

(b) and (c) The State-wise information is not maintained centrally.

Protection to Whistleblowers

2252. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of harassment of Whistleblowers of corruption reported, so far;

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect Whistleblowers; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved in harassing Whistleblowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The Government

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.